

MIDDLESEX COUNTY AMERICAN
HUNGARIAN DEMOCRATS' 25TH
SILVER ANNIVERSARY DINNER
DANCE

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 1999

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, on Sunday, September 26th, the Middlesex County, NJ, American Hungarian Democratic Organization will be holding its twenty-fifth Silver Anniversary Dinner Dance at the Victorian Manor in Edison, NJ. I am proud to pay tribute to this exciting event and the great organization behind it.

The highlights of the event will include the presentation of the Anthony M. Yelencsis Memorial Citizen Award to Steve J. Yelencsis, brother of former Mayor Anthony M. Yelencsis of Edison, the founder of the Middlesex County American Hungarian Democratic Organization. The award will be presented by Anton Yelencsis, Tony's son.

The Anthony M. Yelencsis Memorial Scholarship Award is presented to high school graduates of Hungarian lineage who exhibit excellent scholastic achievements and other distinguished activities and service during their school years. This year, the award will be presented to Valentine S. Tarr by his uncle, Steven Tarr, the Chairperson of the Scholarship Committee.

In addition, the Distinguished Service Awards will be presented to Helen R. Gottlieb, Middlesex County and Edison Democratic Vice-Chairwoman by Dr. Thomas H. Paterniti, Edison Chairman, and to Edison Councilman William A. Kruczak by Edison Councilman Peter J. Barnes III for their contributions to the community and to the organization.

Mr. Speaker, the Hungarian-American community in Middlesex County is one of the largest in the Nation. The members of this community continue to make their mark on the community in numerous ways. When Hungarians left their homeland for the promise of America, particularly in response to the imposition of Communist tyranny, Middlesex County was one of the major areas that provided a home and a sense of hope for the future. The Hungarian immigrants and their sons and daughters, in turn, have contributed mightily to the growth and development of Central Jersey through their hard work and commitment to family and community.

While Hungarian-Americans have become an integral part of the larger American community, thoughts about the great Magyar motherland are still in their hearts and minds. Fortunately, we live in very exciting and hopeful times for the development and renewal of the Hungarian society and the steady improvement of U.S.-Hungary ties. It's hard to believe for some, impossible to forget for others, that just a few years ago the people of Hungary were trapped by the harsh realities of the Cold War, which they did not create but which nonetheless dominated their existence.

Hungary was a leader among Central European nations in establishing a democratic system, before the fall of the Berlin Wall. In the last decade, Hungary has steadily transformed itself into an independent, democratic, market-oriented society, integrated into Europe and the international trading network, a member of

NATO and a serious candidate for membership in the European Union. Unlike other areas of Europe where ancient hatreds have been allowed to fester, Hungary has worked to repair damaged relations with its neighbor Romania. Hungary, in particular among its neighbors, has shown an impressive degree of stability. Even during the Cold War, Hungary worked very hard against tough odds to establish itself as a society independent of Soviet domination in certain key political and economic spheres, and was granted Most Favored Nation status by the U.S. in 1978. Free and fair elections and a proliferation of political parties allow Hungarians of all viewpoints to participate in society. Even parties affiliated with former Communists maintain a commitment to maintaining integration with Western institutions.

A sister-city relationship has been established between New Brunswick, the county seat of Middlesex County, and Debrecen, Hungary, an arrangement to benefit the people of both communities. Developing business partnerships between New Jersey and Hungary will be good for business on both sides of the Atlantic, creating jobs and providing an increased flow of, and access to, goods and services. It's also good for peace and stability, removing the shadow of fear and suspicion that so often got in the way of U.S.-Hungarian relations during the bad old days of the Cold War.

I also want to pay special tribute to Hungary for its contributions to NATO in the operations in the former Yugoslavia, and in taking in refugees from those terrible conflicts. The instability in many of the surrounding lands will continue to test the ability of the new Hungarian democracy to be a force of stability. I am confident that democracy, civil and human rights and a healthy growing economy will triumph in Hungary, given the strong character, values and traditions of the Hungarian people and the help and support from the United States and other Western democracies.

To the leaders and members of the Middlesex County American Hungarian Democratic Organization, I say, Kosonon! (Thank you) and Egeszsegere! (To your health).

TRIBUTE TO LA AGENCIA DE ORCI
AND ASOCIADOS

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 1999

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I take this opportunity to pay tribute to a new business which is locating and office on my Congressional District. La Agencia de Orci and Asociados, is one of the most successful Hispanic owner and operated advertising agencies in the United States and I pay tribute to them for their vision and commitment to better serve the needs of the Hispanic/Latino and other communities.

Established in 1986, in Los Angeles, California, La Agencia de Orci and Asociados opened offices (today), in Chicago, Illinois at 401 N. Michigan Avenue to better provide service to its clients in the Midwest and throughout the Country. The people and the business community of Chicago, unique in their diversity, will greatly benefit from La

Agencia's innovative marketing philosophies such as "Share of Heart." Acknowledged as 1998, Established Business of the Year by the Latin Business Association, La Agencia clients include Allstate Insurance, American Honda, Bell Atlantic, Hormel Foods, Ricosito Corn, Shell Oil and Washington Mutual.

This tribute is to recognize and honor the individuals who have demonstrated leadership, volunteerism and dedication. La Agencia de Orci Partners, Hector Orci and Norma Orci, founders and co-chairs, Roberto Orci, President, and Mariene Garcia, Executive Vice-President are committed to their industry leadership. La Agencia was instrumental in forming the Association of Hispanic Advertising Agencies (AHAA) with Hector Orci elected as its founding President. Actively engaged in building relationships with organizations in meaningful ways, La Agencia consistently develops solutions that make a positive difference for individuals and communities throughout our country.

La Agencia and their 83 agency associates actively participate in cultural and civic programs by providing award winning pro bono advertising to the United Way, Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund (MALDEF). The National Association of Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO). Census 1990 and 2000, and the Children's Bureau of Southern California.

Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleagues, please join me in paying tribute to La Agencia de Orci as they continue their extraordinary commitment to the community. They have earned and deserve our recognition, respect, and praise.

HONORING MR. JEROME COHEN,
SOUTHTOWN COUNCIL 1999 AMERICAN
CITIZEN

HON. KAREN MCCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 1999

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a legendary Kansas Citizen and extraordinary friend, Mr. Jerome Cohen. This week Jerry Cohen will be recognized as the Southtown Council's 1999 American Citizen for his historic record of civic service and volunteerism. This philanthropy and devotion to our community is an extraordinary model for all of us to follow. It is often said that Jerry's life is the consummate 20th Century Horatio Alger's story. He created a successful business and then focused on charity and helping those most in need. This tribute acknowledges his amazing capacity to give and the monumental impact he continues to have in our community.

Annually, the Southtown Council nominates an outstanding leader whose efforts greatly serve the area. This year's beneficiary of their American Citizen award, Jerry Cohen, is no exception. Born to Lithuanian immigrant parents and equipped with a strong work ethic, Jerry Cohen built a prosperous modern copier and business machine enterprise. Our community recognizes his friendship and an amazing six decades worth of charitable support to organizations like the Mayor's Christmas Tree Fund, the Starlight Theatre, the Shriners, the Liberty Memorial, the Parks and Recreation